

Learning Conversation Notes	
<b>Name of Partner:</b> Placer Nature Center	<b>Date:</b> March 12, 2008
<b>Conversation Participants:</b> Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Cathy Ferron, Christine Mattos, Judy Marston, Leslie Warren, Linda Desai	
<b>Outcome:</b> Parents, caregivers, and childcare professionals will incorporate “nature play” and appreciation in their children’s learning experience so that these children view their environment with care, curiosity, and enjoy outside play.	
<b>Performance Measures:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demographics according to the categories mandated in the First 5 Placer Demographic Tool. In addition the following will be required; number of children served directly, the number of children served indirectly and the number of parents/caregivers served.</li> <li>The results of a parent/caregiver survey to measure what “nature play” parents/caregivers have incorporated in their children’s lives, along with observations of the effect on their children.</li> <li>The results of a teacher/childcare professional survey to measure what “nature play” has been incorporated into the educational environment (e.g., classroom curriculum, displays, library, outdoor time) and observations of the effect on the children in their care.</li> <li>Photos and anecdotes/captions that address the outcomes.</li> </ul>	
<b>Number of Children Served:</b>	22 served directly (demographics below) & 477 served indirectly through childcare providers
<b>When served:</b>	12/20/07 -3/12/08
<b>Gender:</b>	
- Male	
- Female	
- Unknown	22
<b>Ages:</b>	
- Prenatal	
- < 1 year	
- 1 year	1
- 2 years	7
- 3 years	8
- 4 years	1
- 5 years	5
- Unknown	
<b>Ethnicity:</b>	
- Alaskan Native/ American Indian	
- Asian	1
- Black/African American	1
- Hispanic/Latino	
- Pacific Islander	
- White	19
- Multiracial	1
- Other	



## **What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?**

### **Demographics**

#### **“Our Day Outside”**

- The numbers in the demographics are from “Our Day Outside” classes.
- The numbers are up and getting a much better response to the workshop. Through word of mouth the program is growing.
- Several parents brought more than one child.
- Placer Nature Center is planning to have the flyer translated into Spanish. The Placer Nature Center doesn’t plan to offer the program in Spanish.
- All attendees were English speaking.
- The survey showed two children with special needs,
- Sixteen parents were surveyed and three were from outside the county.
- The majority of children served are from the Auburn and South Placer regions.

#### **PCOE Provider Workshops**

- The ethnic breakdown for children served indirectly is very diverse. These numbers show the opportunity to offer the program to a more diverse population.
- The majority of the children served by providers attending the workshops are from South Placer.
- Eighty-one providers attended the workshops.
- The majority of the providers were White, from South Placer, and there was one provider from the Tahoe area.

#### **Parent/Caregiver Survey (Survey results are attached to this report.)**

- The data is from “Our Day Outside”.
- Sixteen parents/caregivers were surveyed in February.
- Of the parents/caregivers asked if their knowledge increased about nature play and appreciation, 8 said “a lot”, 8 said “some”, and no one said “not much”.
- Placer Nature Center staff was very pleased with the parent/caregiver response about continuing their nature play in their own backyards.

#### **Provider Survey Results (Survey results are attached to this report.)**

- There were 81 total provider surveys with 42 first time attendees and 39 returnees from the PCOE workshops.
- The first timers are indicating a commitment to incorporate nature play in providing learning experiences in nature to the children in their care.
- As indicated in the survey responses, the workshops are dynamic and interactive.
- The returnee surveys show that childcare professionals are incorporating nature play in their classroom.
- The majority of the returnees indicated they are offering nature play daily.
- Seven providers completed follow-up surveys for the “Foothill Discovery” program.
- All comments from the “Foothill Discovery” program teachers affirm that they are incorporating nature play in the curricula at their schools.

## **In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?**

- Continue collecting data reflecting achievement of outcome as presented at today’s Learning Conversation. This includes the use of photos and anecdotes along with the survey data tied to the outcome as listed in the scope of work.

- Consider contacting Warmline Family Resource Center about offering their families information on the Placer Nature Center Programs.

**Other points that were made during the conversation:**

- Being listed in the Parenting Magazine calendar of events was helpful in drawing people to the Nature Center “Our Day Outside” program.
- Utilization of the First 5 Network to conduct outreach and encourage attendance is appreciated.

**Next Steps:**

- Need to collect gender for children served directly, parents and providers for the demographics. Revise all surveys to collect this information.
- Need to collect gender and region information for children served indirectly.
- Placer Nature Center will contact the First 5 Evaluator to obtain the tool with the client list to assist with collecting the demographic data.
- The next Learning Conversation: July 7, 2008, 1:15-4:45 PM